



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>



United States
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Agriculture



WEATHER & CROPS

Month: February 2011

Number: 2

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2011

Little moisture was received throughout the month. Windy conditions decreased top-soil moisture in many counties. In some areas the low humidity and high winds created fire stress. Small grains continue to look good as most acres have been top-dressed. In some areas warmer weather led to increased field activities as farmers sprayed their small grains for weeds and some producers applied nitrogen. Preparation for tobacco greenhouses to be seeded is underway. Many farmers are putting in seed and fertilizer orders.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February 2011	18	38	42	2
January 2011	2	22	71	5

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
February 2011	17	40	43	0
January 2011	7	27	65	1

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Livestock	1	7	32	53	7
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	1	6	31	56	6

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Year
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	6	8
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	2	3
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	12	6

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 27, 2011

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	53	29	72	26	41	2	0.90	4.82	-4.82	02.66	-3.67
Norfolk	56	36	74	31	46	3	0.09	8.07	-1.89	05.19	-1.73
Richmond	57	32	73	27	44	3	0.68	7.04	-2.34	03.78	-2.41
Roanoke	54	32	69	29	43	3	1.05	4.18	-4.71	02.19	-3.89
Wash/Dulles	47	27	64	22	37	1	0.64	4.85	-3.81	03.38	-2.16

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette R. Smith)

Frederick has had some snowfall and rainfall, but things are still dry.

ROCKINGHAM (John Welsh)

Warming trends towards month's end have helped ease pressure on stored feed and gotten folks thinking about spring field work. The last several weeks I have seen local farmers spreading dairy manure, lime and fertilizer on small grains.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Jason Carter)

Beef cow marketing continues to be high in light of excellent prices and forage shortage

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D. Poore)

Very little moisture received in January & February. Mid thru end of February was very windy conditions drying the soils. Feb 25th was the first day of measurable rains. The small grains are looking good - most have been top-dressed. Small grain/winter grazing of crops does not begin in this area until around mid-end of March.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

The warm weather led to much field activity. Small grain was sprayed for weeds and some producers applied nitrogen. Farmers are sub-soiling land and finishing moldboard plowing. Tobacco greenhouses will be seeded in the upcoming weeks as contract specifics are known. Equipment repair work continues.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Conditions are very dry. We have had some intermittent small snow events and some drizzle, but overall January and February have produced very little precipitation. Farmers are putting in seed and fertilizer orders and getting ready for the spring planting season. Some small grain fields have been top-dressed.

CENTRAL (*continued*)**CHESTERFIELD (Joan D. Poore)**

Very little moisture received in February - in addition to the very windy conditions in the past couple of weeks drying the soils. Feb 25th was the first day of measurable rain. Most of the small grains have been top-dressed.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Very dry conditions. No significant moisture since the December snow storm. All rain events have been short lived and light. Snow was less than an inch. It was cold and windy conditions until mid Feb. Then there was a warming trend but still dry. Late Feb low humidity and high winds have created fire stress. We already have a precipitation deficit for the year.

EASTERN

KING GEORGE (John Howe)

There was some rain in the past week but dryer than normal for this time of the year.

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Producers spent the month top-dressing small grains with nitrogen and applying herbicides. Dry weather during the month also gave producers the opportunity to apply lime and potash for spring planted crops and "no-till" rip continuous no-tillage fields. Producers continued working on tax preparation and evaluating crop insurance options, and attending production meetings.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Some rain fell near week's end. Conditions are getting dry, especially on top. Fire swept across over 500 acres in northern Middlesex County and about 1000 acres in northwest Gloucester County. Some agricultural damage, but most was contained to fields and forest floor. Small grains look pretty good, but needs some rain. Most folks have applied their first shot of N. Producers are making planting decisions and following the market. Soil sampling and lime spreading continues. Some field prep begun with deep tillage.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

GRAYSON (Kevin Spurlin)

Except for some precipitation late in the month, February has been unseasonably warm, windy, and dry. Fire danger has been prevalent. Wet weather springs are dry, which does not bode well going into spring. There are indications of bud swell on some of our earliest tree species, which is well before normal. There is concern about premature bud break on many fruit trees with the warm weather.

CULPEPER (Carl Stafford)

Very dry for the season, due to dry fall and winter. The trend is troubling.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Little rainfall this winter has left the county in a deficit, and forecasts do not show a break anytime soon. Sheep and cattle producers are enjoying high prices. Strawberries overwintered harder than normal, but still have 4-5 crowns and appear to be headed for normal spring growth.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Late month rain pulled the county back to even on moisture. Mid month cold temperatures combined with cold winds dried surplus moisture up completely.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

With High winds and no rain for the last two weeks fields had began drying out the top layer of the soil creating a dusty wind. Today the rain started and according to forecast we should get a good amount. Livestock is selling well. Snow has broken for the past three weeks.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Beverly Cox)

February was a dry month. We are currently about 3 to 4" behind normal rainfall for the year.

HENRY (Agent)

The month of February has been extremely dry until February 24 - 27. The Henry county area received between 1/2 and 1 inch of rain since then.

SOUTHEASTERN

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

February has been a dry month, as we received less than an inch of rainfall. Streams and swamps have very low water levels and crop fields are unusually dry for this time of year. Growers have taken advantage of the dry weather to spread lime, apply potash fertilizer, and top-dress small grain crops. Small grain has greened up with the warmer temperatures but growth has been tempered by lack of water. Some fields are starting to show drought induced nutrient deficiencies due to no rain since winter fertilizer applications have been made. The volatility in crop prices has growers actively trying to market the 2011 crop.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Producers are beginning to get to their fields for some prep for planting. Fields are dry with lack of rainfall. Dry weather has been contributing to grass and brush fires. Pastures are still slow to come back and supplemental feeding is the norm.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Unusually cold February, small grains are slightly behind schedule with fertilizer going out where spreaders will hold up.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

It has got extremely dry for this time of the year as we get prepared for a new production season. Farmers are busy with soil sampling, lime & fertilizer applications and topdressing small grains. Some are rabbit hunting. We hope the rains come soon!

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Fields have dried enough to allow nitrogen applications to small grain and lime applications this last week of February. Farmers are busy this month attending winter production meetings.



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